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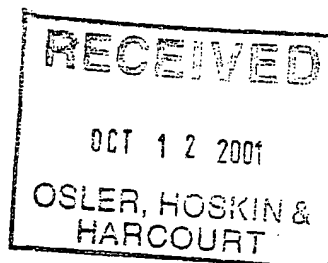
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OTTAWA Ontario
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October 10, 2001

Application No. : 2,242,345
Owner : MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.
Title : EXCITATION VECTOR GENERATOR, SPEECH CODER AND
SPEECH DECODER
Classification : G10L-9/14
Your File No. : 13105
Examiner : G. Matar

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION 30(2) OF THE PATENT RULES, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF A REQUISITION BY THE EXAMINER. IN ORDER TO AVOID ABANDONMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 73(1)(A) OF THE PATENT ACT, A WRITTEN REPLY MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 4 MONTHS AFTER THE ABOVE DATE.

This application has been examined taking into account applicant's correspondence dated August 16, 2001.

The number of claims in this application is 20.

The examiner has identified the following defects in the application:

A search of the prior art has revealed the following:

Reference Applied:

Canadian Patent
2,150,614

March 30, 1996

G10L-9/00

Foti et al.

Foti et al. disclose a method for speech signal synthesis by means of time concatenation of waveforms representing elementary units of speech signal. In this method, at least the waveforms associated to voiced sounds are subdivided into a plurality of intervals, and each interval is subjected to a weighting. The signals resulting from the weighting are replaced with a replica thereof shifted in time, and the synthesis is carried out by overlapping and adding the shifted signals. Each interval of synthesised signal is built by reproducing the waveform from an unchanging part of the original interval and a waveform obtained by aligning in time and adding two waveforms resulting from applying two connecting functions, respectively.

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The claims on file do not comply with Section 28.3 of the Patent Act. The subject matter of these claims would have been obvious on the claim date to a person skilled in the art or science to which they pertain having regard to Foti et al. The claims are so broad that they could be read on the cited prior art.

The abstract does not comply with Section 79 of the Patent Rules. The abstract, presently on file, does not reflect the inventive concept of the present application.

It should be noted that Figures in the drawings, which illustrate the prior art, should be labeled "PRIOR ART". Applicant is requisitioned to amend Figures 1, 2A, 2B and 2C accordingly.

In view of the foregoing defects, the applicant is requisitioned to amend the application in order to comply with the Patent Act and the Patent Rules or to provide arguments as to why the application does comply.

G. Matar
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